

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XIX, No. 2, February, 1921

EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

Annual Meeting in San Diego.—It is about time to begin planning for the annual trek to the meeting of the Medical Society, State of California. The war is really over. The arts of peace are flourishing. In scientific, social, and practical value, the approaching session already bids fair to eclipse any of its predecessors. There are some big problems to be reported on and some decisive lines of action to be determined. There ought to be two thousand doctors in attendance. It is worth it. For once, put yourself in the way of realizing that you belong to a big, upstanding, two-fisted profession. Get out of your rut. You are in one, whoever you are. Get out of it. Ruts hinder, and your perspective is curtailed by them. . . .

Board of Medical Examiners Abolished by Assembly Bill 347.—On January 18, 1921, Governor William D. Stephens sent a special message to the Legislature setting forth, in general terms, an economy and efficiency program. . . .

In the Governor's message what was referred to as "the seventh bill" to create a "Department of Professional Standards" was introduced as the first bill of the eight Efficiency Economy Bills in numerical order. We are not informed whether this was an accident, or whether it is considered of first importance, and should therefore be first considered. . . .

The chief purpose of the Board of Medical Examiners is to test the qualifications of those who undertake to treat disease in any form and to protect the public from unskilled and incompetent practitioners, from imposition by charlatans and quacks who make extravagant claims of ability to cure the sick and are a constant menace to the health of their victims and the community at large. The public as a whole is entitled to know that anyone licensed by the state for a profession which requires the highest skill, learning and character shall have these qualifications determined by competent judges, and that the incompetent and unscrupulous shall be excluded from practice no matter how loudly they clamor. No law must be passed for political expediency that will lower standards, admit the uneducated to practice, and thereby jeopardize the public health.

EXCERPTS FROM ORIGINAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

From an Article on "Concerning the Size of Women: Preliminary Note with Special Reference to Height," by Clelia Duel Mosher, M.D., Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.—A popular belief seems to be prevalent that women are increasing in size. This idea has, apparently, received some confirmation from the study of 4,023 of the Stanford women who entered the University during the past thirty years. . . .

The romantic story of the founding of Stanford University gave its opening in 1891 a very wide publicity and

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, on Page 24)

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

Historical reminiscences, papers and other archives will be welcomed by the C.M.A. Committee on History, to whom such should be sent. Address same to the Committee's Secretary, Dr. George H. Kress, Room 2004, 450 Sutter, San Francisco, 8.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By F. N. SCATENA, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Judge Charles K. Dyer, fined Phillip V. Abrams \$200 and suspended a thirty day sentence of the doctor found guilty of falsifying a birth certificate and aiding 'sale' of an illegitimate baby to a childless couple." (Pasadena, California *Star-News*, October 31, 1945).

"Special Agent Joseph Williams of the Board of Medical Examiners filed a complaint charging Dr. Otto Adolph Schmitt of Brookings with the illegal practice of medicine. . . . Dr. Schmitt did take a California examination for a medical license but failed to pass." (*Crescent City Triplicate*, November 27, 1945.)

"For the death of their infant son, Donald, following medical treatment, Donald S. McInnes, a marine engineer, and his wife, Ann, filed a suit for \$50,250.00 damages in Superior Court against Raymond Fraher, 46, now serving a 180 day jail sentence for practicing medicine without a license." (*Los Angeles Times*, November 15, 1945.)

"Massage Parlor in Hollywood Raided."—"A Chiropractor and two girls were jailed as suspected morals offenders. Investigators said they were making a detailed check of the 'list of patients' in an effort to recover a possible white slavery ring. Doctor Proctor booked on suspicion of pandering, contended he was a 'bona fide' doctor and displayed the list of patients as proof." (*Hollywood Dispatch*, November 15, 1945.)

"The Veterans Administration, with the approval of General Omar N. Bradley, is undertaking a \$1,000,000 program of research on artificial limbs. The move is prompted by criticism of the types now being supplied to veterans." (San Mateo, California, *Times Leader*, November 12, 1945.)

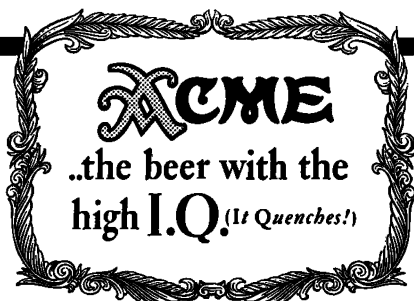
"District Attorney James Thueson today disclosed a trail of fraudulent morphine prescriptions which he said led to the suicide of Dr. Harold J. Cooper, 51, who swallowed poison after Thueson advised him by telephone to appear for arraignment." (San Diego, California, *Union*, November 8, 1945.)

"Two Fresno druggists pleaded guilty in the police court today to technical violations of the State Health and Safety Code arising out of the acceptance of narcotic prescriptions by telephone from Fresno physicians." (Fresno, California, *Bee*, December 7, 1945.)

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.

NERVOUSNESS, FATIGUE AND BEER

The effects of beer drinking in cases of nervousness and fatigue are quoted from widely divergent and highly authoritative sources in Bulletin 945-2, issued by the United States Brewers Foundation, 21 East 40th Street, New York... a copy of which may be had free upon request.



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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Continued from Page 114)

attracted, not only students from California and the neighboring states, but also from the middle west and from the far east, both north and south. Only fourteen of the thirty years thus far have been analyzed with reference to the birthplace of the students. The curves for the Californians and non-Californians both show the upward trend of weight and height and the downward trend of the age curves. . . .

From an Article on "Relationship Between Trauma and Malignant Disease from an Industrial Viewpoint," by W. Ophuls, M.D., San Francisco.—Before entering upon a discussion of the relationship of trauma to malignant disease from the point of view of one who wishes to determine fairly the connection of an industrial acci-

dent with the subsequent development of a malignant growth, it may be well to look upon the question from a purely scientific standpoint and to ask ourselves what warrant is there to assume, that there may be such a connection. . . .

From an Article on "How Can Medical Service Be Improved?," by Morton R. Gibbons, M.D., San Francisco.—To attempt to cover this subject in one-quarter of an hour without making some form of explanation or protest might be to acknowledge that medical service can be very little improved, if any. The contrary is the case. It may be vastly improved. . . .

My purpose is to take up for consideration a number of subjects, offering briefly some suggestions.

The importance of Industrial Medicine and Surgery is not appreciated by the rank and file of the profession

(Continued on Page 30)

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Continued from Page 24)

It does not embrace simply the treatment of industrial injuries. It embraces all the phases of social medicine. The colleges are establishing courses in the subject. It embraces a large proportion of the total surgical and medical work. . . .

From an Article on "Bilateral Nephrolithiasis," by George W. Hartman, M.D., San Francisco.—Recent reports by various observers of the incidence of bilateral nephrolithiasis are very much in agreement. Braasch reports sixty-two cases among five hundred and sixty-six operations for calculus, a percentage of 12.3. Israel, in an exhaustive monograph on kidney and ureter stones, reports sixty-four cases among five hundred and seventy-two operations, or 11.2 per cent.

Our data includes forty-two cases of nephrolithiasis of all types. Of these, ten were bilateral, a percentage of 23.8. If reduced to the proportion operated it becomes 29.4 per cent. . . .

From an Article on "Urinary Incontinence and Its Operative Repair," by James R. Dillon, M.D., San Francisco.—Incontinence of urine results from inability of the sphincters to prevent the involuntary escape of urine from the bladder. There are a number of persons having varying degrees of urinary incontinence due to spinal cord diseases, tuberculosis and traumatic lesions, who are forced to wear a urinal on their person. The cystitis which usually accompanies these conditions with its complications and sequelae and the stench emanating from the urinal, impresses one with the miserable condition of

(Continued in Back Advertising Section, Page 34)

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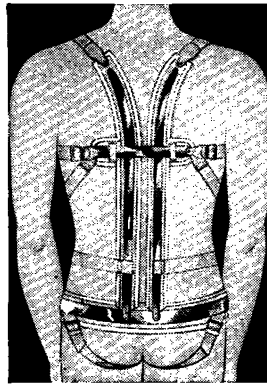
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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Continued from Front Advertising Section, Page 30)

these patients and the readiness with which they will submit to any procedure which offers some small hope of relief. . . .

From an Article on "Industrial Medicine," by Robert T. Legge, M.D., University of California, Berkeley.—For the first time in the history of this society a new section on Public Health and Industrial Medicine makes its debut on the program as an important branch in the field of scientific medicine. These specialties should be devoted in their fullest measure to educational problems in preventive, industrial and socialized medicine, so as to offer to the general profession a knowledge of subjects that are correlated with medicine. The practicing physician trained in curative medicine deals entirely with

the individual while the sanitarian, the industrial physician, or the social worker deals with the problems that confront the whole of the society. All factors in public health or social economics are fundamentally medical subjects, and consequently the profession should be continually informed of the advances made in these fields of research. . . .

From an Article on "The Industrial Surgeon, What He Is—What He Can Be—What He Should Be," by Gilbert M. Barrett, M.D., F.A.C.S., San Francisco.—Many problems are before the medical world and the most of these are pressing for recognition and solution before the Industrial portion of the world.

The Industrial Surgeon of today believes in and advocates examination of all applicants for work. It should be the accepted routine of all industrial enterprises. One of the greatest sources of saving to the employer is the

(Continued on Page 40)



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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Continued from Page 34)

physical selection of employees for work. This is done by the physical examination of all applicants for work before employment. The value to the employer depends upon the thoroughness of these examinations and the amount of coöperation between the employment department, the medical department and the foreman. The placing of all comers on jobs without any effort at a physical selection for their work is responsible for a great financial waste which cannot be shown in dollars and cents, but which, nevertheless, is very evident. . . .

From an Article on "Deformities of the Hand Acquired After Accidents," by A. Gottlieb, M.D., San Francisco.—These hand deformities may be classified into three groups: hysterical, functional, and organic. A de-

formity is however rarely a pure example of a group in view of the fact that injury is their common etiology, and that they present symptoms which are characteristic for more than one group. . . .

From an Article on "Roentgen Treatment of Uterine Hemorrhage," by Lyell C. Kinney, M.D., San Diego, Calif.—The treatment of atypical uterine hemorrhage is the most satisfactory task referred to the radiologist. Most of these patients are seen after many months of bleeding, with severe anaemia, and frequently they have been curetted several times. In spite of this history the prognosis of a suitable case is almost invariable. It is practically certain that the bleeding can be controlled within four weeks and a rapid general recovery instituted by that time. The change in these women is little short of marvelous, and is most grateful to them and a

(Continued on Page 44)

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Continued from Page 40)

source of great satisfaction to the attending physician as well as to the roentgenologist.

In spite of the brilliant results in properly chosen cases the *sine qua non* is an accurate diagnosis. Most of our patients are referred by gynecologists after careful study, and when they are referred otherwise they are thoroughly studied with a competent gynecologist. It is only under such painstaking coöperation between a pelvic surgeon and the roentgenologist that any actinotherapy is justified. . . .

From an Article on "Heat the Most Practical and Promising Treatment in Uterine Carcinoma," by J. F. Percy, M.D., San Diego, Calif.—Today we are limited in the discussion of the cancer question merely to the

terms of its treatment. Practically nothing regarding any other phase of the disease is known, certainly not to a degree to be of any value in its management from the standpoint of therapy. The basis of all our treatment of cancer is still empiric, as it always has been, and yet it can truthfully be said that progress has been made, except possibly in the inoperable types as far as it relates to the use of the cold steel knife.

There are five methods today for the treatment of cancer that have a rightful claim to the consideration of medical men. They are the knife, x-ray, radium, electro-coagulation (diathermy), and heat. All five of these in the hands of those most familiar with their correct and rational use have undoubted cures to their credit, and I say this with full appreciation of the significance of the word "cure" as it is related to the question of scientific accuracy especially in the treatment of cancer. . . .

(Continued on Page 46)

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Continued from Page 44)

From an Article on "Nasal Catarrh," by C. A. Phelan, M.D., San Francisco.—Catarrh, from the latinized form of the Greek word, "catarrhus," is a generic term used to denote the sort of fluid flow discharging from a membranous surface. This may be a simple serous or sero-mucous, mucous, muco-purulent, or a sanious catarrh, and the ratio of seriousness is placed in the above order. A catarrh may be acute, subacute or chronic, with more or less fever.

As applied to the nasal region, catarrh is not a disease but only a symptom, and may be a manifestation of a systemic condition, sometimes of the simplest and sometimes of the most serious. . . .

Dear Doctor:

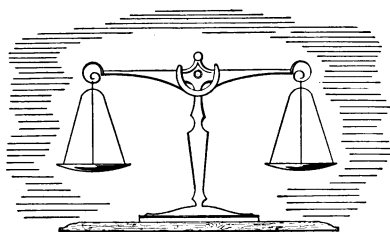
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From "Chairman's Address: Advance in Business Methods," by P. A. Jordan, M.D., Eye and Ear Sec., San Jose.—Thirteen months have rolled by since last we met on these beautiful grounds. . . .

Chronic otitis media, we believe, will be much less in the growing generation of children than formerly, due to the growing custom of the careful enucleation of tonsils and adenoids.

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(Continued on Page 48)



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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Continued from Page 46)

Excerpts from County Societies:

Alameda County Items.—The regular monthly meeting of the Alameda County Society was held at the Health Center Monday evening, December 20th. . . .

Dr. Dudley Smith, president of the League for the Conservation of Public Health, in token of their high esteem for him personally, and as a mark of their appreciation of his noble efforts for the advancement of public health, was presented with a gold watch bearing an appropriate inscription. Although taken by surprise, Dr. Smith, in his usual happy way, rose to the occasion and again impressed upon his confreres the genuine pleasure

he had taken in his past year's work and fired his listeners with new zeal for service that seeks the advancement of the public good. . . .

Los Angeles County: Los Angeles County Medical Association Meeting.—The regular scientific meeting of the Society took place December 2, 1920, at 8 p.m., in the Friday Morning Club House. . . .

Los Angeles County Hospital, December 1, 1920: Announcing the Opening of the Olive View Sanitarium for Tuberculosis.—This new institution, which is being operated as a ward of this hospital, is now receiving as patients those adults having definite tuberculosis who are ambulant and who are in the early stages of the

(Continued on Page 50)

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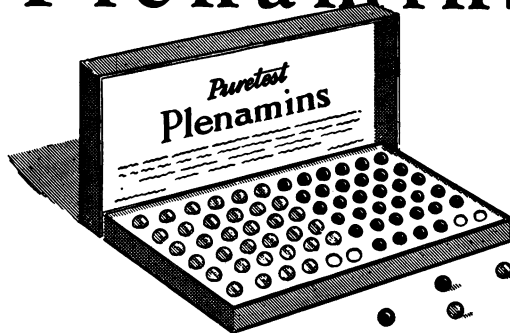
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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Continued from Page 48)

disease or who are in a condition that is considered favorable for early arrestment. It is expected that children will be admitted as soon as suitable accommodation can be provided. From the social standpoint its patients are those who are unable to pay for private sanitarium treatment and who are citizens of the United States and who have resided in Los Angeles County for one year immediately preceding application for admission. Advanced cases among indigents are cared for at this hospital as heretofore. . . .

The poorest way to face life is to face it with a sneer.
—Theodore Roosevelt, *Speech*, University of Paris.

Classified Advertisements

(Continued from Page 10)

WANTED: Complete office equipment including instruments, tables, scales, laboratory and X-ray equipment. Box 9600, California and Western Medicine.

Tuberculosis in Central Europe

The Nazi concentration camps created a grave source of dissemination of tuberculosis in Europe. Disease contracted there, and now in its incipency, may be expected to develop for months or years after the general repatriation, which is now well under way. The recognition and control of tuberculosis in men returning from these concentration camps will be a problem for the health officers of every country whose nationals were imprisoned. U. S. Army Dept. Bulletin, October, 1945.